

### REMARKS

The present Amendment is submitted under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.312. It is requested that the present Amendment be entered since it will not require any substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Examiner.

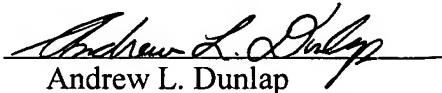
Please note that dependent claims 2-7, 10, and 11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Further, dependent claim 8 has been amended to depend from claim 1, rather than (cancelled) claim 10.

In view of the above, it is kindly requested that the above-mentioned amendments be entered, since the scope of pending claims 1, 8, and 9 does not extend beyond that of claims 1-11 which were allowed by the Examiner, and since, as required by 37 CFR 1.312, these amendments are now filed before payment of the issue fee.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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